

Advanced Airborne School History

The Advanced Airborne School was established in 1947. It was then known as the "Heavy Drop School". The school operated as a three-day course that taught heavy drop techniques. In 1949 the school closed but it opened again in May 1950. At this time the Jumpmaster Course became a part of the school. The courses taught were a one-week course in Air Delivery and a one-week course in jumpmaster techniques. In June 1950, plans were approved to construct a 34-foot jump tower on Pratt Street. These greatly improved techniques developed and taught by the Jumpmaster Committee, since newer equipment was being introduced into the airborne community. This school operated until 1954 when the Basic Airborne Course was added to the responsibilities of the school. More acreage was obtained and also two new 34 foot towers were constructed along with parachute landing fall platforms, suspended harness apparatus, mock doors, swing landing trainers and general subjects shed (classroom).

The Jumpmaster, Air Delivery, and a new course that had been added to the school (a one-week course on Air Transportability) did not come under one headquarters. They operated as the Basic Airborne Committee and the Advanced Airborne Committee until 1958. Then both were combined into a unit known as 3d Augmentation Unit (Abn) (FId) under the control of 82d Airborne Division's Command and Control Battalion.

In January 1962, the Basic Airborne Course was moved to Fort Benning, Georgia along with all equipment and most of the BAC Instructors. At the same time, a building was constructed where Faith Barracks and Division Support Command Headquarters are presently located, giving the Advanced Airborne School newer and better training aids.

In 1967, with upgraded aircraft and equipment, another change was made in the courses conducted. The

Air Delivery and Air Transportability courses were combined into one course known as "Air Movement Operations". This course was two weeks in duration. The Jumpmaster Course was also changed from a one-week course to a two-week course. The Advance Airborne School could accommodate 50 students in the Air Movement Operations course and 60 in the Jumpmaster Course.

In April 1982, with better equipment and newer technology more changes were made in the courses conducted. The Air Mobility Command Load Planners class which is taught as part of the Air Movement Course was expanded from two and a half days to one-week, thus creating a new three-week Air Movement Course, producing better qualified unit Air Movements Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers. Additionally, beginning in Fiscal Year 1983, the Jumpmaster Course was expanded from a seating capacity of 60 students to 70 students per course.

In October of 1983 the Advanced Airborne School cadre was increased from 1 Officer and 19 Non-Commissioned Officers to 1 Officer and 24 Non-Commissioned Officers in order to accommodate a new program, MC1-1B Reinforcement Training. This course was designed to better familiarize the new trooper in the proper techniques applicable to the MC1-1B parachute.

In December of 1991, the AAS cadre accepted the first instructors from the XVIIIth Airborne Corps. Upon completion of their training the Jumpmaster Class size was increased from 70 to 80 students with the additional slots going to XVIIIth Airborne Corps students. SGT J.J. Little was the first instructor from XVIIIth Airborne Corps.

In June of 1992 the first female instructor, SGT Genota Brown, became a Blackhat. She served as an instructor on the AMO Committee.

In 1993, the 82d All-American Free-Fall Team and 82d Free-Fall Activity were officially assigned under the command and control of the



Advanced Airborne School, increasing the scope and responsibility of the school to include free-fall as well as static line operations.

In October 1994 the Jumpmaster Committee and the Tower Committee combined resources and established a new training facility on Taylor St. The 34' towers were moved from their Longstreet location along with the Jumpmaster School from its original location at Green Ramp to the new AAS training site at Taylor St. The combining of the Jumpmaster Committee and Tower Committee resulted in more efficient teaching procedures.

In November 1994, the DZSTL procedures were added to Jumpmaster School. This enabled the 82d Airborne Division to certify its Jumpmasters to serve in all aspects of Airborne Operations.

During 1995, the first female Jumpmaster Instructor was assigned. Additionally the Air Movement Operations Committee was officially certified by the Air Force and became the first Army school to teach the Airlift Planners Course on behalf of the Air Force. Most recently, a packet was submitted and approved by FORSCOM giving the Advanced Airborne School authorized Table of Distribution and Allowance positions in 1997.

March of 1995, the first female Jumpmaster Instructor was SFC Jan Garcia. SFC Garcia had served as a Platoon Sergeant in the Aviation Brigade prior to earning her Black Hat. On 1 October 2002 FORSCOM redesigned the 82D Airborne Division Advanced Airborne School, as the United States Army Advanced Airborne School, as a separate company to the 82D Airborne Division, under Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion.